



# *Directorate of Emergency Services* *Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey*



## **DES Newsletter – May 2010**

Greetings Everyone,

First off, I want to welcome our new Garrison Commander to Picatinny Arsenal. His name is LTC Charles “Herb” Koehler (pronounced Kay-Lore) and he’s originally from Ohio. One of the things that I like about the Army is that it doesn’t look at officers as being a, “Jack-of-all-trades and a master at none.” Every officer is selected to serve in a specialty and sometimes they have the opportunity to branch out to other areas. LTC Koehler’s last assignment was with the Defense Logistics Agency and his expertise just happens to be in transportation and logistics. I see that as being a tremendous benefit to us as we continue our efforts to enhance operations and quality of life at Picatinny. Please join me in welcoming him and his family to the Garrison Command.



If you look above, you’ll see the new logo for the Installation Management Command (IMCOM). Notice that it includes the focus on Soldiers, Families and Civilians (that means you too). That is who we are and what we are all about. Last month, I spoke to you briefly about the IMCOM Commanding General’s Campaign Plan. Here’s what LTG Rick Lynch wants to know when he looks at the way we’re doing business: are we doing the right things; are we doing things right, and what are we missing? If we can answer those questions, then we’re ahead in the ballgame. If not, then we have our work cut out for us. In executing the plan, LTG Lynch is focusing on six lines of effort: Soldier, Family and Civilian Readiness; Well Being; Leader and Workforce Development; Installation Readiness; Safety; and Energy Efficiency & Security. Right now, we’re working on figuring out how this will apply to us at the Garrison and Directorate level and you can rest assured that I will keep you posted on our progress.



able to hit two birds with one stone (so to speak). Now, you could look at this and say that the firefighters are just checking the building for leaks. The way I’m looking at it, you have firefighters conducting training by utilizing their apparatus and skills to maintain their job proficiency. In addition, they’re supporting the installation by performing Fire Service and Support Operations. Way to go FD!

You know, it’s amazing what you can do with modern technology nowadays. Here we are at a major Army center for conducting research and development and you never know when good things are going to happen. That was the case the other day when I spotted the Fire Department’s B Platoon spraying down a building with water. With that little camera in my cell phone, I’m able to show you how we’re

Let’s say that you’re standing adjacent to the Main Gate when a van pulls up, the driver gets out, places a large metal cooking pot on the ground, waves good-bye, and then drives off. Would you know what to do? That exact same situation happened when I was a Provost Marshal in Germany. Unfortunately, the driver got away, and we we’re forced to cordon off the area and wait until the EOD arrived to tell us that it contained wires, books, and ceramic birds (obviously the suspect was mentally unstable).

Fast forward to the present when vendors observed something strange happening inside an SUV parked in New York's Times Square and notified mounted police officers. What's impressive about this incident is how NYPD responded, took control of the situation, established a perimeter, and evacuated the crowds in a calm, rapid, and professional manner. The Emergency Services Unit, Bomb Squad, Detectives, and Crime Scene Unit were then able to come in and do their jobs. It turns out that the SUV was in fact a Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) that did not function properly. The VBIED was made up of propane tanks, gas cans, urea based fertilizer, M-88 firecrackers, and other components which are not too difficult to obtain. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder commented that, "It's clear that the intent behind this terrorist act was to kill Americans." Just as we conduct after action reviews to see how we can do a better job, I'm sure that terrorists also try to learn from their mistakes. The question is not if they will attack again, but when and where? The lesson learned between the incident in Germany and the one here is that these types of incidents can happen in the blink of an eye. Therefore, emergency service personnel (police, fire, security, and EMS) must remain vigilant in their efforts to protect the community and be able to properly respond to a variety of catastrophic events at a moment's notice. Not an easy task, but I have faith and confidence in the capabilities of the men and women of DES.



Seeing the value of having people keeping an eye out for suspicious activity in their own neighborhood, we've revitalized the Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) here at Picatinny Arsenal. This program traces its roots back to Colonial times when night watchmen patrolled the streets seeking to protect their community. The modern NWP started in 1972 and has evolved over the years. However, the main concept behind the program has remained: neighbors watching out for their neighbors and reporting suspicious activity to the Police. We're all a part of Community Oriented Policing within the DES, so everyone will have a role in the successful implementation of one of the oldest and most effective crime prevention programs in this and many other countries. Stay tuned for more information.

Everyone should know that we'll be receiving our Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (JSIVA) from 17-21 May 2010. In essence, this is the Super Bowl of all security inspections within the Department of Defense. The team will be looking at us from a variety of angles as well as from top to bottom and all the way around (bottom line...it's going to be very thorough). Keep posted for more info.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month, we'll be celebrating Memorial Day to commemorate those men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country. Many of us will be working that day, but I want to thank all of you for your service to our community. For those of you who have the opportunity to enjoy family gatherings, outdoor activities, and sporting events, I ask you to remember the importance of safety in everything that you do. We do want to see you back safe and sound here at Picatinny Arsenal.

Hang in there....

Richard J. Karlsson  
Director of Emergency Services